

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

In accordance with the Examiner's preliminary remarks, claims 25, 26 and 40-52 have been renumbered 3-17, respectively.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholls, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,369) in view of Godin, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,138).

Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled.

Nicholls is using a UPC code to identify a package and to give the package a name and number so that the package identifying number may be automatically entered into the system.

Godin discloses the following in lines 21-41 of column 3:

"There are several aspects which have to be addressed to maintain security of information maintained in the database server **22** as well as the banking system shown as **28**. A firewall **20** prevents any user **8** from accessing any of the components behind the firewall **20**. In this way the users have access to the web server computers **10** and **12**, but only have access to the database server through the firewall **20**. The database server maintains, amongst other things, various database fields with respect to each of the products which are slated to be auctioned. As shown in FIG. 4, these data fields include a UPC code, a product description, an auction date and time, a current quantity, a starting price for the auction, a closing price for the auction, a large product image, a small product image, product carry, warranty cost, a minimum cost, a designation whether a warranty is available, an auction end time, a product catalogue, a product weight which is used as part of the shipping costs, an extended product description, a product street price, a product vendor allocation as well as an auction produce number."

Godin discloses a product weight as part of the shipping cost but does not disclose anything about the packing material and container.

Godin discloses the following in column 3, lines 31-41:

"As shown in **FIG. 4**, these data fields include a UPC code, a product description, an auction date and time, a current quantity,

a starting price for the auction, a closing price for the auction, a large product image, a small product image, product carry, warranty cost, a minimum cost, a designation whether a warranty is available, an auction end time, a product catalogue, a product weight which is used as part of the shipping costs, an extended product description, a product street price, a product vendor allocation as well as an auction product number."

Godin discloses a reverse auction system in which the weight of the product is a part of the shipping cost. Godin does not disclose how to determine the weight of the package and, therefore, the cost of mailing the package.

Neither Nicholls nor Godin, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the system and method claimed by Applicant in claims 3-17, namely, a system and method of returning a weight from a weight field of a database wherein said database has at least one data field for storing a set of data relative to a corresponding article, packing material, and container, and wherein said set of data comprises at least said weight field.

For instance, the cited art does not disclose steps (c), (d), and (e) of claim 3, which read as follows:

- (c) transmitting a query from said routine to said database for a weight associated with said corresponding article, said packing material, and said container;
- (d) returning said weight to said routine; and
- (e) displaying the cost to ship the article, packing material and container.

In view of the above, claims 3-17 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, the resolution of which he believes would be advanced by a telephone

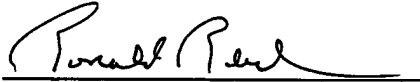
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conversation with Applicant's attorney, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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